



USAID | MACEDONIA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2008

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PRESS RELEASE

The USAID Hope Fellowship round table on anti-corruption

The USAID Hope Fellowship Program is hosting a one-day roundtable event on Anti-corruption programs, strategies and best practices in the Republic of Macedonia. The participants, representing government and civil society, will discuss the current anti-corruption programs and initiatives that are being implemented in Macedonia. They will be addressed by speakers from the National Anti-corruption Commission, NGO Zero Corruption, Transparency Macedonia, Macedonian Institute for Media, Macedonian Customs Administration, UNDP, NDI, IRI and an Oxford University academic.

The purpose of the conference is to promote a meaningful dialogue between the participants and to provide them with an opportunity to learn from Anti-corruption experts as they discuss challenges related to the broad issue of anti-corruption efforts in Macedonia.

"Robust and steady implementation of anti-corruption programs will improve Macedonia's NATO and EU candidacies. There is a need to demonstrate political will and to support the programs through the provision of adequate budgetary and personnel resources," said Michael Fritz, USAID Mission Director.

The USAID Hope Fellowship Program is administered by the National Albanian American Council (NAAC). Through this program, NAAC's goals are to strengthen institutional partnerships with civil society and in-country human capital, to increase inter-ethnic cooperation, and to promote regional stability and cross-border cooperation. The program is being implemented in Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.